

## **Student Selection Criteria-Targeted Assistance Programs**

Targeted assistance programs must use ESEA Title I, Part A funds to provide additional academic services to children who are identified as failing or at risk of failing to meet the state standards. These services must be provided over and above what the identified child would have received in the regular education program. The services must supplement not supplant the regular school program. Title I funds must be used to provide a benefit only to eligible students, and Title I funds must be tracked to an allowable purpose. In most cases, the additional services are provided in reading, language arts, and math.

Student eligibility for Title I services must be based upon the following criteria:

- Children not older than 21 who are entitled to free public education through grade 12.
- Children who are not yet at the appropriate grade level for free public education.

In addition to these requirements, Title I eligible students are defined as those who are failing or most at risk of failing to meet state standards in academic achievement. Schools should make these determinations based on multiple, educationally related, objective criteria which have been developed by the LEA.\* Note, however, that these criteria do not apply to students in grades K-2. Here, the judgment should be based upon the recommendations of the teacher, interviews with parents, and other developmentally appropriate measures.

Certain student groups are automatically eligible to receive Title I services, and they are not subject to the ordinary criteria. However, using the prior criteria will assist the school in determining the needs of these children:

- Any child who participated in Head Start, Even Start, Early Reading First, or Title I preschool services at any time within the last two years.
- Any child attending a community day care program or living in a state or local institution for neglected or delinquent children.
- Any child served in the previous two years under the Migrant Education Program.
- Any child who is homeless and attending any school served by the LEA.

In many cases, schools will not have enough resources to serve all eligible students. Should this occur, the school will need to develop a prioritized list of eligible students with those children failing or most at risk of failing getting the first opportunity to receive Title I services. It is also important to note that selection for services is based upon low achievement, not low income. A student from a wealthy family who is in a Title I school and is having academic difficulty is eligible for services on the same basis as any other student.

\* These criteria should reflect the student's academic performance. Examples are, but are not limited to: DIBELS, MontCAS, ITBS or other tests, grades, teacher observations, etc.